

c) when the end-point network switch is capable of supporting the transparent link, supporting the transparent link between the sending party and the receiving party.

13. (Amended) A set-up processor comprises:

a processing module; and

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memory operably coupled to the processing module, wherein the memory includes operating instructions that cause the processing module to (a) obtain connection information of an end-point network switch in response to receiving a set-up message from a sending party, wherein the set-up message identifies a receiving party, and wherein the receiving party is operably coupled to the end-point network switch; (b) interpret the connection information to determine whether the end-point network switch is capable of supporting a transparent link between the sending party and the receiving party; and (c) support the transparent link between the sending party and the receiving party when the end-point network switch is capable of supporting the transparent link.

a3
21. (Amended) The set-up processor of claim 20, wherein the memory further comprises operating instructions that cause the processing module to convert the modified connection message based on a network protocol.